

BLL 40-59

Safety & Health Assessment & Research for Prevention (SHARP)
PO Box 44330, Olympia, WA 98504-4330 (360) 902-5669

Date

Dear Employer

Preventing lead poisoning has become a national priority. Blood levels above 25 µg/dl are associated with adverse health effects. The goal of the US Public Health Service is to eliminate workplace exposures that result in workers having blood lead concentrations greater than 25 µg/dl.

In Washington State, all blood lead test results which are likely to be work-related are forwarded to the Department of Labor and Industries' (L&I) Safety & Health Assessment & Research for Prevention (SHARP) program. SHARP's goal is to inform, educate, and provide technical assistance to companies and industries that present risks of lead exposure to employees and owners. **SHARP is not a "rules and regulations" branch of L&I and therefore does not enforce regulations, compliance, or penalties.**

Through our occupational lead poisoning registry (run jointly with the Department of Health), we learned that at least one of your employees has recently been reported to have an elevated blood lead level (above 40 µg/dl). This indicates that present safeguards against employee lead poisoning may not be effective.

We consider an elevated lead level to be a potentially serious health problem and would like to work with you to correct this. There are three options for you to pursue technical assistance to address your potential lead overexposure situation. These are:

- 1) direct assistance from SHARP,
- 2) assistance from the L&I consultation program (1-800-547-8367) or
- 3) services of a private industrial hygiene firm.

All three of these programs would provide confidential consultations that are without risk of penalty. The first two choices would also be free of charge.

Please feel free to contact us at (360) 902-5669 or (888)-66-SHARP to discuss this situation. We would very much like to provide assistance and look forward to working with you to address this health issue.

Sincerely,

Occupational Lead Registry Coordinator
Enclosures